

R5-14-000-3605-C



United States Environmental Protection Agency
Regional Administrator
Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

JAN 24 2014

The Honorable Betty McCollum
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman McCollum:

Thank you for your January 6, 2014 letter supporting the request for an assessment of the cumulative effects of mining activity in the Lake Superior Basin that was sent to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency last month by fifty-nine tribal, civic, conservation, business, recreation and faith-based organizations.

EPA is reviewing the request for a Cumulative Effects Assessment -- and will follow up with your staff to schedule a background briefing on the National Environmental Policy Act, the Cumulative Effects Assessment process and the recently released Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Polymet mine in northeastern Minnesota. Denise Fortin, our Minnesota Congressional Liaison, will be in touch with your staff to set up a briefing in the near future.

If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Denise Fortin or Ronna Beckmann, the Region 5 Congressional Liaisons, at (312) 886-3000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SH", is located below the word "Sincerely,".

Susan Hedman
Regional Administrator